

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /087 W

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R 051640Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4013

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AG SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA AND OAU: ALGERIANS CONTINUE TO CLAIM VICTORY

1. ALGERIANS CONTINUE PUBLICLY TO CLAIM VICTORY FOR POLISARIO AND SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED OAU MINISTERIAL. LATEST EDITORIAL PUBLISHED MARCH 5 CLAIMS THAT ALL OAU STATES, "EVIDENTLY MINUS MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA," RECOGNIZE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THAT "LARGE MAJORITY" HAVE RECOGNIZED POLISARIO AS ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF SAHRAOUI. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT SPAIN HAS NOT ESCAPED CONDEMNATION AND WONDERS HOW MOROCCAN INFORMATION MINISTER CAN CLAIM THAT THERE IS NO DISPUTE BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND SPAIN GIVEN EXISTENCE OF "IMPERIALIST BASES" AT SEBTA AND MELILLA.

2. MOROCCAN CHARGE TELLS US THAT A DECISION BY OAU TO HAVE POLISARIO RECOGNIZED AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED "CONSENSUS" OF MEMBER STATES. ON OTHER HAND, RECOGNITION OF SAHRAOU REPUBLIC COULD, ACCORDING TO HIM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY. REALIZING

THAT THEY COULD NOT EXPECT CONSENSUS ON POLISARIO, ALGERIANS, IN MOROCCAN CHARGE'S VIEW, OPTED FOR CREATION, AND ULTIMATE RECOGNITION, OF SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC.

3. CONTINUED FAILURE OF SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC TO ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT, AND LACK OF ALGERIAN RECOGNITION OF NEW "STATE," IS CAUSING COMMENT HERE. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT WAS RUMORED EARLIER THIS WEEK. IT MAY BE THAT CHOICE OF MINISTERS FROM SCRUFFY RANKS OF POLISARIO'S "POLITICAL" WING IS PROVING DIFFICULT. LACK OF SUCH GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, MAY BE DETERRING SOME AFTICAN STATES FROM EXTENDING RECOGNITION, AND ALGERIANS MAY NOT WISH TO RECOGNIZE UNLESS A FEW OTHER STATES WITH MORE CLOUT THAN MALAGASY REPUBLIC AND BURUNDI DO SO. THUS, SITUATION CONTINUES TO PARALLEL THAT DESCRIBED IN OLD U.S. POLITICAL SAW, "AS MAINE GOES, SO GOES VERMONT."

4. FOR ADDIS ABABA: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON VALIDITY OF MOROCCAN CHARGE'S VIEW IN PARA 2 ABOVE. DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE, PRIMARILY ON BASIS PRESS REPORTS, COMPILED FOLLOWING LIST OF TWENTY-FOUR OAU MEMBERS WHICH GOA BELIEVES LIKELY TO PROVIDE SDAR WITH VOTING MAJORITY:

ALGERIA, ANGOLA, BENIN, BOTSWANA, BURUNDI, CHAD, ZAIRE, COMORES, CAPE VERDE, ETHIOPIA, GHANA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUINEA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA UPPER VOLTA, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGERIA, SAO TOME-PRINCIPE, SOMALIA, TANZANIA, TOGO.LYNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RECOGNITION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER00609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760086-0188
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760392/aaaaddgy.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA AND OAU: ALGERIANS CONTINUE TO CLAIM VICTORY
TAGS: PFOR, AG, SS, OAU, POLISRIO
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006